

FACT SHEET



10th Street Site Columbus, Nebraska

November 2000

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide an update of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) actions at the 10th Street Superfund site, Columbus, Nebraska. The site is located in the central part of Columbus.

SOURCE REMOVAL

An air sparging/soil vapor extraction treatment system is operating at the One Hour Martinizing dry cleaning facility, 2262 25th Avenue, Columbus, Nebraska. This system is removing contaminants from the soil and the ground water at the facility. The facility is a source of ground water contamination that extends south to 7th Street. Removing the source of the contamination will support cleaning up the ground water contamination.

TREATABILITY STUDY

EPA is conducting a treatability study just north of the railroad tracks between 23rd and 25th Avenue. The treatability study consists of in-well stripping technology for cleaning up contamination in ground water. The treatment process involves the injection of air or ozone into the well below the water table. The injected air causes a pressure that acts like an airlift pump to push ground water up and through a lower screen. The trapped air strips the contaminants and aerates the ground water, which rises until it reaches a level where it can flow out into the ground water through an upper screen. The air produces a flow pattern which treats a large radial area outward from the well. Contaminated vapors, stripped from the water, are removed by an aboveground vacuum system and treated with activated carbon. No contaminated vapors are released to the air. The newer in-well stripping technology does not require aboveground handling or discharge of water.

EPA is conducting this study to determine if the in-well stripping technology is effective in cleaning

Information Session

EPA will hold an information session:

**Monday, November 27, 2000
4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers
1369 25th Avenue
Columbus, Nebraska**

Staff members involved at the site will be available to answer your questions, one-on-one. A brief presentation on the site will be given at 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 7 p.m. You may attend the meeting at your convenience between 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

up the contaminated ground water and controlling the movement of the ground water. If so, the in-well strippers will be considered as a long-term option to clean up the ground water.

COST RECOVERY

The actions taken by EPA at the 10th Street site are being funded with money from Superfund. Congress established the Superfund program in 1980 in response to growing concerns posed to human health and the environment from hazardous substances. EPA attempts to identify potentially responsible parties (PRPs) who may be responsible for causing the contamination and be liable for costs of the cleanup. Under the Superfund law, potentially responsible parties may be: 1) the present owners and operators at the site; 2) past owners and operators at the time hazardous substances were disposed; and 3) parties who generated hazardous substances at a site and arranged for disposal.

EPA has identified several potentially responsible parties (PRPs) at the 10th Street site. These parties have been notified of their potential liability. EPA is currently in settlement discussions with the PRPs regarding cost recovery.

OTHER SITE ACTIVITIES

EPA continues to regularly sample more than 60 monitoring wells and the city's downtown municipal water supply wells. The sampling information is used to monitor the extent of the ground water contamination, the concentration of the contaminants in the ground water, and to ensure that the city's water supply remains safe.

NEXT STEPS

EPA will evaluate various technologies to address ground water contamination at the site. After these technologies are evaluated, EPA will propose a plan for a long-term remedy to cleanup the ground water. This plan is expected to be proposed in mid-2001. The public will be notified and asked to provide comments on the plan.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Documents related to the 10th Street site are available for public review in the Columbus Public City Library, 2504 14th Street, Columbus, Nebraska.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact:

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